



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

April 30, 2008

Hello Friends,

I was proud to host Assembly Speaker-elect Karen Bass for a tour of Central Valley agricultural and water supply facilities. Assemblymember Bass spent a full day in, and around, the 30th Assembly District visiting growers, local water suppliers, and community leaders. The day concluded with a special evening attended co-hosted with me by Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani.

Assemblymember Karen Bass has been a State Assembly Member representing Los Angeles' 47th Assembly District since 2005. In February 2008, she made history when the California Assembly elected the Los Angeles Democrat as its 67th Speaker, catapulting a Democratic woman to the post for the first time in the state's history. Along with the California political first, Speaker-Elect Bass makes national history as the first African American woman to serve in this powerful state legislative role in the country.

Governor Schwarzenegger has signed 17 of Bass' bills into law focusing on Foster Care reform; Healthy Families Insurance Coverage to help prevent children from going without health insurance; and a small business policy that removes red tape by preventing businesses from filling out duplicate certification forms for the city and state.

Our support of Speaker-elect Bass is imperative as she begins building relationships with California's agricultural and Central Valley water communities. As we look forward to the remainder of this legislative session and in to next year, we must embrace this opportunity to educate and inform California's leadership

I want to thank Assemblymember Bass for taking such a keen interest in the Central Valley's agricultural industry and our unique water issues. I also greatly appreciate Assemblymember Galgiani for her continued leadership on Valley issues. Special thanks to Sarah Woolf, John Harris, and Jean Sagouspe for making it such a special day in the Valley!

What's Happening in Sacramento

I proudly joined members of the Legislative Women's Caucus and the California Coalition Against

Sexual Assault (CALCASA) on the steps of the State Capitol to **speak out against Sexual Violence**. Tragically, another American is sexually assaulted every 2 minutes. Almost half of these victims are under 18 years of age, and 80% are under 30. It is important to bring attention to this issue and do all we can to decrease the number of assaults. www.calcasa.org

My Legislative Highlights

Members of the Latino Water Coalition, Central Valley elected officials, and others held a press conference urging legislators to place a comprehensive water plan for California on the November ballot. I spoke on the importance of a water plan to provide an adequate supply of water to communities throughout the 30th Assembly District and the Central Valley. I recently met with **Piedad Ayala of Riverdale**, who was once processing 23,000 W-2 forms for farm labor. Now he is processing 6,000 to 8,000. Small Valley towns are losing thousands of jobs and their civic strength is waning. I continue to join so many constituents in calling for a comprehensive water bond to address this long-term crisis and help our towns, our friends, and our families.

I want to thank Corcoran Chief of Police, Reuben Shortnacy, for coming to Sacramento to testify on my bill, AB 441. The bill would increase penalties for criminals who sell methamphetamine to make certain they spend at least 120 days in jail. It has been a priority of mine to raise awareness in Sacramento about the problems our Valley communities are facing with the horrific consequences of methamphetamine use. The bill was held in the Senate Public Safety Committee so that we can make some improvements to it before a committee vote can be taken in at a later date.

Constituents Visit Sacramento

As part of Hispanas Organized for Political Equity's (H.O.P.E.) Latina Action Day, a group of approximately **50 bright young women came to Sacramento as Latina Leaders of Kern County.** Latina Leaders of Kern County works toward political, educational, and economic parity to benefit our community and the status of all women. Every year, I sponsor lunch for these impressive young women who represent the Central Valley so well. www.llkc.org

I was pleased to introduce a group of 7th and 8th grade students, and Kevin Thompson, from Armona Union Academy in Kings County. The kids spent a full day in Sacramento and I was able to have them recognized during Assembly Floor Session where they enjoyed seats in the Gallery.

Representatives from California State University Bakersfield and California State University, Fresno met with me during the State University's "Lobby Days." The conversation centered on the budget crisis gripping California and what our universities are doing to cope with more students and tighter funding. I remain committed to higher education and its role in better positioning the Central Valley to compete in the 21st Century economy.

In the District

I am pleased to announce the Kern Council of Governments has been awarded a grant from the California Department of Transportation's Regional Blueprint Planning Program. In conjunction with the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission and the Mono County Local Transportation Commission, the grant is to help achieve common goals to improve mobility and quality of life by working toward completion of the Regional Blueprint Plan. www.kerncog.org

The California Department of Housing and Community Development is providing services for **registration and renewal and title transfers for mobilehomes** throughout the state. They will be in the 30th Assembly District on May 6 and 7 at Pioneer Pines, located at 6601 Eucalyptus Drive in Bakersfield.

The State Department of Public Health has awarded Kit Carson Union School District in Hanford a grant under the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund. These monies assist the community in meeting safe drinking water standards for domestic water supply. Kudos to Kit Carson Union School District.

Congratulations to Downtown Elementary in Bakersfield and R.J. Neutra Elementary in Lemoore for being named 2008 Distinguished Elementary Schools by the California Department of Education. These two schools were awarded after a rigorous selection process. The Blue Ribbon School Program recognizes public kindergarten through grade twelve schools that are either academically superior or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. www.cde.ca.gov

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Internships

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at:

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For Sacramento office internships contact **Derek Chernow** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at:
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